

National Fisheries Habitat Program

Request for Proposals for FY 2000

National Sea Grant College Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is entertaining preliminary proposals and subsequently full proposals for innovative research, education, and outreach projects that address critical and high priority problems related to Fisheries Habitat in U.S. coastal and Great Lakes waters. Preference will be given to proposals that involve collaboration with multiple investigators and various Federal agencies and focus on regional and national issues with broad application. Proposals with narrow focus from single investigators are not encouraged and will have a minimal likelihood of being funded. In FY 2000 and 2001, Sea Grant expects to make available about \$1,500,000 per year to support such projects. Proposals may request up to \$300,000 per year for a maximum of two years, and each proposal must include additional matching funds equivalent to at least 50% of the Federal funds requested. Successful projects will be selected through national competitions.

DATES: Preliminary proposals must be received before 5 pm (local time) on December 1, 1999 by the nearest state Sea Grant College Program or the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO). After evaluation at the NSGO, some proposers will be encouraged to prepare full proposals, which must be received before 5 pm (local time) on February 15, 2000 by the nearest state Sea Grant College Program or the NSGO.

ADDRESSES: Preliminary proposals and full proposals must be submitted through the nearest state Sea Grant Program. The addresses of the Sea Grant College Program directors may be found at the following Internet website: (<http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/SGDirectors.html>) or may be obtained by contacting the Program Manager at the NSGO (see below). Investigators from non-Sea Grant states may submit their preliminary proposals and proposals directly to the National Sea Grant Office at: National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, Attn: Mrs. Geraldine Taylor, Fisheries Habitat Competition, Room 11732, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Emory D. Anderson, Program Director for Fisheries, National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Tel. (301) 713-2435 ext. 144, facsimile (301) 713-0799, e-mail: (emory.anderson@noaa.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Program Authority

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1121-1131. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 11.417, Sea Grant Support.)

II. Program Description

Background

Human and non-anthropogenic activities threaten the environments of our marine and Great Lakes waters. Habitats important to stocks of finfish and shellfish species exist in riverine, estuarine, coastal, and offshore continental shelf waters within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone as well as in waters of the Great Lakes. A long-term threat to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing adverse impacts of various human activities and natural hazards on our marine and Great Lakes aquatic habitats.

The U.S. Congress, in re-authorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act through the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) in October 1996, mandated the identification of habitats essential to Federally managed marine finfish and shellfish species and the identification of measures to conserve and enhance these habitats. The SFA defined essential fish habitat (EFH) as "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity." This has been further interpreted by NOAA to include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties needed to support sustainable fisheries and healthy ecosystems involving managed species.

Since Congressional intent in the SFA was to prevent further loss of marine, estuarine, and other aquatic habitats, the eight regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) have had to amend their fishery management plans (FMPs) to describe and identify EFH for all life stages of managed species, provide information on fishing and non-fishing activities that may adversely impact EFH, recommend measures to conserve and enhance EFH, and minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse impacts on EFH caused by fishing activities. The SFA also requires consultations between the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and any Federal agency whose actions may adversely affect EFH.

Although the EFH mandate in the SFA was directed towards the conservation and management of habitat for Federally managed fisheries, it has served to heighten awareness and stimulate similar efforts by state resource agencies and interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions responsible for near-shore and estuarine waters and by state, Federal, and international bodies responsible for Great Lakes waters.

Huge gaps in knowledge exist regarding habitat preferences and requirements of the life stages of many finfish and shellfish species, the role played by various habitats in the fishery production process, and the impacts of various anthropogenic and natural activities on habitat structure and function. In order for Fishery Management Councils, NMFS, interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and other Federal and state regulatory bodies and agencies responsible for either marine or Great Lakes waters to adequately manage habitats, these gaps in knowledge must be filled through expanded research and extension efforts.

The importance of addressing the requirement for and present deficiency in knowledge regarding fisheries habitat, and the need to consider habitat to a greater extent in fisheries management, has recently received considerable national attention in scientific symposia and conferences and popular and peer-reviewed publications. This new research initiative will help to address the lack in knowledge.

Funding Availability and Priorities

The National Sea Grant College Program encourages proposals that address the topical fisheries habitat issues listed below. Proposals are particularly encouraged that: (1) involve collaboration with multiple investigators and various Federal agencies (e.g., National Marine Fisheries Service, National Undersea Research Program, Environmental Research Laboratories, National Ocean Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency) in which the cooperating agencies provide additional funding, personnel, specialized equipment, research vessel time, and the like; (2) address regional or national issues with broad application; (3) demonstrate local and regional resource manager and stakeholder involvement in the planning and development process; (4) provide results in digital, metadata, GIS-capable format; and (5) incorporate applied areas of education, outreach, socioeconomic, and management components and applications of direct benefit to stakeholders. Proposals with narrow focus from single investigators are not encouraged and will have a minimal likelihood of being funded.

Proposals are requested that address the following issues, which are not listed in any implied order of priority:

(1) Identification, quantification, synthesis of existing information, and understanding of the linkage between fisheries and their habitats: completion of life history inventories of managed species (e.g., distribution and abundance of egg, larval, and juvenile stages); habitat factors (e.g., temperature, salinity, flow regimes, currents, turbidity, habitat structure, habitat location or quality, prey abundance) influencing distribution, abundance, growth, species interactions, and survival for prediction of fisheries abundance trends and yields; development of conceptual ecosystem models and their functional attributes incorporating habitat; establish and quantify linkages between habitat and fisheries production.

(2) The effects of anthropogenic activities on habitat of managed fisheries: fishing (e.g., gear-specific, spatial and geographic extent, mapping of fishing and non-fishing areas, intensity and frequency gradients, seasonality, differential habitat types, recovery rates following disturbance by gear, predictive models linking impacts with species population dynamics, gear design to minimize impacts); aquaculture and stock enhancement (e.g., physical, nutrient, contaminant, genetic, and disease impacts); point and non-point source pollution; coastal and urban development (e.g., land-use practices, water flow diversion, buffer zones, loss or alteration of habitat).

(3) Impacts of natural hazards on fisheries habitat: relative scales of natural variability; global climate variation; storm activity, flooding, drought, erosion.

(4) Restoration of habitat: artificial reefs; estuarine dredging; salt marsh ecology; marine reserves; area management strategies (e.g., open and closed areas for commercial fisheries, rotational systems); wetland rehabilitation; shoreline and streambank stabilization; spawning habitat rehabilitation (e.g., anadromous finfish species).

About \$1,500,000 is available from the National Sea Grant College Program to support these projects in FY 2000; an additional \$1,500,000 may be available in FY 2001 depending on the overall funding appropriation for the National Sea Grant College Program. Project activities should include identified milestones for each project year, and the second year of funding is contingent upon availability of funds and submission of an annual report showing satisfactory progress. Proposals may request up to \$300,000 per year for a maximum of two years, and each proposal must include additional matching funds equivalent to at least 50% of the Federal funds requested; for example, a proposal requesting a total of \$300,000 in Federal support for two years would have to include at least an additional \$150,000 in matching funds. Proposals involving collaboration with any non-Sea Grant Federal agency or agencies must include documentation and verification of the nature and value of the support being provided by such agency or agencies. Any additional funding contributed by collaborating agencies could be provided either to the participating investigators from such agencies or directly to the participating university investigators. Regardless of any approved indirect cost rate applicable to the award, the maximum dollar amount of allocable indirect costs for which the Department of Commerce will reimburse the Recipient shall be the lesser of: (a) the Federal share of the total allocable indirect costs of the award based on the negotiated rate with the cognizant Federal agency as established by audit or negotiation; or (b) the line item amount for the Federal share of indirect costs contained in the approved budget of the award.

III. Eligibility

The National Sea Grant College Program is a network of 29 university-based programs in coastal and Great Lake states involving more than 300 institutions nationwide in research, outreach, and education. Applications may be submitted by individuals associated with these institutions and also by individuals, public or private corporations, partnerships, or other associations or entities (including non-Sea Grant institutions of higher education, institutes, or non-Federal laboratories), or any State, political subdivision of a State, or agency or officer thereof. Applications by individuals not affiliated with Sea Grant institutions should preferably be collaborative efforts with Sea Grant university investigators.

Awards will be in the form of grants or cooperative agreements, the latter being the case if the project involves substantial involvement by investigators from a partnering Federal agency. Awards to successful applicants from Sea Grant institutions will be issued through the local Sea Grant Programs. Awards to successful applicants from institutions from non-Sea Grant states will be issued through the National Sea Grant Office.

IV. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for proposals submitted for support under the Fisheries Habitat Program

are as follows:

(1) Impact of Proposed Project (55%): Significance of the problem addressed or the effect this activity will have on improving the understanding and management of fisheries habitats; and the degree to which potential users of the results of the proposed activity have been involved in planning the activity and/or will be involved in the execution of the activity.

(2) Scientific or Professional Merit (35%): Degree to which the activity will advance the state of the science or discipline through synthesis of existing information and use or extension of state-of-the-art methods, employ new approaches to solving problems and exploiting opportunities in resource management or development or in public outreach, focus on new types of important or potentially important resources and issues, be executed by investigators qualified by education, training, and/or experience; and record of achievement with previous funding.

(3) Collaboration (10%): Degree to which multiple investigators and other non-Sea Grant Federal agencies are involved in the activity.

V. Selection Procedures

Preliminary proposals must be submitted in order to be eligible to submit a full proposal. Preliminary proposals will be reviewed at the NSGO by a panel composed of government, academic, and industry experts according to the evaluation criteria listed above. The panel will make individual recommendations to the Director of the NSGO regarding which preliminary proposals may be suitable for further consideration. On the basis of the panel's recommendations, the Director of the NSGO will advise proposers whether or not the submission of full proposals is encouraged. Invitation to submit a full proposal does not constitute an indication that the proposal will be funded. Interested parties who are not invited to submit full proposals will not be precluded from submitting full proposals if they have submitted a preliminary proposal in accordance with the procedures described below.

Full proposals will be received at the individual state Sea Grant Programs (or at the National Sea Grant Office, if from a non-Sea Grant state) and sent to peer reviewers for written reviews which will be based on the evaluation criteria listed above. The National Sea Grant Office will obtain the written reviews for proposals from non-Sea Grant states. Complete full proposals and their written reviews will be sent by the state Sea Grant programs to the National Sea Grant Office to be ranked in accordance with the assigned weights of the above evaluation criteria by an independent peer review panel consisting of government, academic, and industry experts. The panel members will provide individual evaluations on each proposal, but there will be no consensus advice. The National Sea Grant Office will consider their recommendations and evaluations in the final selection. Only those proposals rated by the panel as either Excellent, Very Good, or Good are eligible for funding. For those proposals, the National Sea Grant Office will: (a) ascertain which proposals best meet the program priorities, giving consideration to geographical distribution and representation, and do not substantially duplicate other projects that are currently funded or are approved for funding by NOAA and other Federal agencies; hence,

awards may not necessarily be made to the highest-scored proposals; (b) select the proposals to be funded; (c) determine which components of the selected projects will be funded; (d) determine the total duration of funding for each proposal; and (e) determine the amount of funds available for each proposal. Investigators may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of the award. Subsequent grant administration procedures will be in accordance with current NOAA grants procedures. A summary statement of the scientific review by the peer panel will be provided to each applicant.

VI. Instructions for Application

Timetable

December 1, 1999, 5 pm (local time) - Preliminary proposals due at state Sea Grant Programs or at NSGO for proposals from non-Sea Grant states.

December 6, 1999, 5 pm EST - Preliminary proposals submitted to state Sea Grant Programs should be transmitted by those Programs to the NSGO so as to be received by the NSGO on this date.

February 15, 2000, 5 pm (local time) - Full proposals due at state Sea Grant Programs or at NSGO for proposals from non-Sea Grant states.

February 21, 2000, 5 pm EST - Full proposals submitted to state Sea Grant Programs should be transmitted by those Programs to the NSGO so as to be received by the NSGO on this date.

March 29, 2000, 5 pm EST - Reviewed full proposals due at NSGO.

July 1, 2000 (approximate) - Funds awarded to selected recipients; projects begin.

General Guidelines

The ideal proposal attacks a well-defined problem that will be or is a significant societal issue. The organization or people whose task it will be to make related decisions, or who will be able to make specific use of the projects results, will have been identified and contacted by the Principal Investigator(s). The project will show an understanding of what constitutes necessary and sufficient information for responsible decision-making or for applied use, and will show how that information will be provided by the proposed activity, or in concert with other planned activities.

Research projects are expected to have: a rigorous, hypothesis-based scientific work plan, or a well-defined, logical approach to address an engineering problem; a strong rationale for the proposed research; and a clear and established relationship with the ultimate users of the information. Research undertaken jointly with industry, business, multiple investigators, or other agencies with interest in the problem will be seen as being meritorious. Their contribution to the research may be in the form of collaboration, in-kind services, or dollar support. Projects with narrow focus from single investigators are not encouraged and will have a minimal likelihood of

being funded. Projects that are solely monitoring efforts are not appropriate for funding.

Proposals which incorporate educational, outreach, socioeconomic, and management components and applications will be seen as being meritorious.

What to Submit

Preliminary Proposal Guidelines

To prevent the expenditure of effort that may not be successful, proposers must first submit preliminary proposals. Preliminary proposals must be single- or double-spaced, typewritten in at least a 10-point font, and printed on metric A4 (210 mm x 297 mm) or 8.5" x 11" paper. The following information should be included:

- (1) Signed Title Page: The title page should be signed by the Principal Investigator and should clearly identify the program area being addressed by starting the project title with "Fisheries Habitat". Principal Investigators and collaborators should be identified by affiliation and contact information. The total amount of Federal funds and matching funds being requested should be listed for each budget period, as well as the source of the matching funds; the total should include all subrecipient's budgets on projects involving multiple institutions. Preliminary proposals must include matching funds equivalent to at least 50% of the Federal funds requested.
- (2) A concise (2-page limit) description of the project, its expected output or products, the anticipated users of the information, and its anticipated impact. Proposers may wish to use the Evaluation Criteria for additional guidance in preparing the preliminary proposals.
- (3) Resumes (1-page limit) of the Principal Investigators.
- (4) Proposers are encouraged (but not required) to include a separate page suggesting reviewers that the proposers believe are especially well qualified to review the proposal. Proposers may also designate persons they would prefer not review the proposal, indicating why. These suggestions will be considered during the review process.

Full Proposal Guidelines

Each full proposal should include the first six items listed below; the standard forms indicated under Item 7 will only be required for proposals selected for funding. All pages should be single- or double-spaced, typewritten in at least a 10-point font, and printed on metric A4 (210 mm x 297 mm) or 8.5" x 11" paper. Brevity will assist reviewers and program staff in dealing effectively with proposals. Therefore, the Project Description may not exceed 15 pages. Tables and visual materials, including figures, charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations are included in the 15-page limitation; literature citations and support letters, if any, are not included in the 15-page limitation. Conformance to the 15-page limitation will be strictly enforced. All information needed for review of the proposal should be included in the main text;

no appendices, other than support letters, if any, are permitted. Failure to adhere to the above limitations will result in the proposal being rejected without review.

(1) Signed Title Page: The title page should be signed by the Principal Investigator and the institutional representative and should clearly identify the program area being addressed by starting the project title "Fisheries Habitat". The Principal Investigator and institutional representative should be identified by full name, title, organization, telephone number, and address. The total amount of Federal funds being requested should be listed for each budget period; the total should include all subrecipient's budgets on projects involving multiple institutions.

(2) Project Summary: This information is very important. Prior to attending the peer review panel meetings, some of the panelists may read only the project summary. Therefore, it is critical that the project summary accurately describes the research being proposed and conveys all essential elements of the research. Applicants are encouraged to use the Sea Grant Project Summary Form 90-2, but may use their own form as long as it provides the same information as the Sea Grant form. The project summary should include: 1. Title: Use the exact title as it appears in the rest of the application. 2. Investigators: List the names and affiliations of each investigator who will significantly contribute to the project. Start with the Principal Investigator. 3. Funding request for each year of the project, including matching funds if appropriate. 4. Project Period: Start and completion dates. Proposals should request a start date of July 1, 2000, or later. 5. Project Summary: This should include the rationale for the project, the scientific or technical objectives and/or hypotheses to be tested, and a brief summary of work to be completed.

(3) Project Description (15-page limit):

(a) Introduction/Background/Justification: Subjects that the investigator(s) may wish to include in this section are: i) Current state of knowledge; ii) Contributions that the study will make to the particular discipline or subject area; and iii) Contributions the study will make toward addressing the problem of fisheries habitat.

(b) Research or Technical Plan: i) Objectives to be achieved, hypotheses to be tested; ii) Plan of work - discuss how stated project objectives will be achieved; and iii) Role of project personnel.

(c) Output: Describe the project outputs that will enhance the Nation's ability to understand and manage fisheries habitat.

(d) Coordination with other Program Elements: Describe any coordination with other agency programs or ongoing research efforts. Describe any other proposals that are essential to the success of this proposal.

(e) Literature Cited: Should be included here, but does not count against the 15-page limit.

(4) Budget and Budget Justification: There should be a separate budget for each year of the project as well as a cumulative annual budget for the entire project. Applicants are encouraged to use the Sea Grant Budget Form 90-4, but may use their own form as long as it provides the same information as the Sea Grant form. Successful applicants whose awards would be made through a state Sea Grant Program must consult with that state Sea Grant Program budget office to ensure that all necessary overhead costs are included. Subcontracts should have a separate budget page. Matching funds must be indicated if required; failure to provide adequate matching funds will result in the proposal being rejected without review. Applicants should provide justification for all budget items in sufficient detail to enable the reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of the funding requested. For all applications, regardless of any approved indirect cost rate applicable to the award, the maximum dollar amount of allocable indirect costs for which the Department of Commerce will reimburse the Recipient shall be the lesser of: (a) the Federal share of the total allocable indirect costs of the award based on the negotiated rate with the cognizant Federal agency as established by audit or negotiation; or (b) the line item amount for the Federal share of indirect costs contained in the approved budget of the award.

(5) Current and Pending Support: Applicants must provide information on all current and pending support for ongoing projects and proposals, including subsequent funding in the case of continuing grants. All current project support from whatever source (e.g., Federal, State, or local government agencies, private foundations, industrial or other commercial organizations) must be listed. The proposed project and all other projects or activities requiring a portion of time of the principal investigator and other senior personnel should be included, even if they receive no Federal salary support from the project(s). The number of person-months per year to be devoted to the projects must be stated, regardless of source of support. Similar information must be provided for all proposals already submitted or submitted concurrently to other possible sponsors, including those within NOAA.

(6) Vitae (2 pages maximum per investigator).

(7) Standard Application Forms: Applicants may obtain all required application forms at the following Internet website: (<http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/research/rfp/index.html#3>), from the state Sea Grant Programs, or from Dr. Emory D. Anderson at the National Sea Grant Office (phone: 301-713-2435 x144 or e-mail: emory.anderson@noaa.gov). For proposals selected for funding, the following forms must also be submitted:

(a) Standard Forms 424, Application for Federal Assistance, and 424B, Assurances - Non-Construction Programs, (Rev 4-88). Applications should clearly identify the program area being addressed by starting the project title with "Fisheries Habitat". Please note that both the Principal Investigator and an administrative contact should be identified in Section 5 of the SF-424. For Section 10, applicants should enter "11.417" for the CFDA Number and Sea Grant Support for the title. The form must contain the original signature of an authorized representative of the applying institution.

(b) Primary Applicant Certifications. All primary applicants must submit a completed

Form CD-511, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements and Lobbying", and the following explanations are hereby provided:

- (i) Non-Procurement Debarment and Suspension. Prospective participants (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 105) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, "Non-Procurement Debarment and Suspension" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;
 - (ii) Drug-Free Workplace. Grantees (as defined at 15 CFR Part 26, Section 605) are subject to 15 CFR Part 26, Subpart F, "Government-wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants)" and the related section of the certification form prescribed above applies;
 - (iii) Anti-Lobbying. Persons (as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Section 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitation on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions", and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000, and loans and loan guarantees for more than \$150,000, or the single family maximum mortgage limit for affected programs, whichever is greater; and
 - (iv) Anti-Lobbying Disclosures. Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities", as required under 15 CFR Part 28, Appendix B.
- (c) Lower Tier Certifications. Recipients shall require applicants/bidders for subgrants, contracts, subcontracts, or other lower tier covered transactions at any tier under the award to submit, if applicable, a completed Form CD-512, "Certifications Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions and Lobbying" and disclosure form, SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities". Form CD-512 is intended for the use of recipients and should not be transmitted to the Department of Commerce (DOC). SF-LLL submitted by any tier recipient or subrecipient should be submitted to DOC in accordance with the instructions contained in the award document.

VII. How to Submit

Preliminary proposals and proposals must be submitted to the state Sea Grant Programs or, for investigators in non-Sea Grant states, directly to the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO), according to the schedule outlined above. Although investigators are not required to submit more than 3 copies of either pre-proposals or full proposals, the normal review process requires 10 copies. Investigators are encouraged to submit sufficient copies for the full review process if they wish all reviewers to receive color, unusually sized (not 8.5" x 11"), or otherwise unusual materials submitted as part of the proposal. Only three copies of the Federally required forms are

needed. The addresses of the Sea Grant College Program directors may be found at the following Internet website: (<http://www.nsgo.seagrant.org/SGDirectors.html>) or may be obtained by contacting the Program Manager, Dr. Emory D. Anderson, at the National Sea Grant Office (phone: 301-713-2435 x144 or e-mail: emory.anderson@noaa.gov). Pre-proposals and proposals sent to the National Sea Grant Office should be addressed to: National Sea Grant Office, R/SG, Attn: Mrs. Geraldine Taylor, Fisheries Habitat Competition, Room 11732, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone number for express mail applications is 301-713-2445).

Applications received after the December 1, 1999 and February 15, 2000 deadlines and applications that deviate from the format described above will be returned to the sender without review. Facsimile transmissions and electronic mail submission of preliminary and full proposals will not be accepted.

VIII. Other Requirements

(A) Federal Policies and Procedures - Recipients and subrecipients are subject to all Federal laws and Federal and Department of Commerce (DOC) policies, regulations, and procedures applicable to Federal financial assistance awards.

(B) Past Performance - Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding.

(C) Pre-Award Activities - If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the Government. Notwithstanding any verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of DOC to cover pre-award costs.

(D) No Obligation for Future Funding - If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of DOC.

(E) Delinquent Federal Debts - No award of Federal funds shall be made to an applicant who has an outstanding delinquent Federal debt until either:

- (1) The delinquent account is paid in full,
- (2) A negotiated repayment schedule is established and at least one payment is received, or
- (3) Other arrangements satisfactory to DOC are made.

(F) Name Check Review - All non-profit and for-profit applicants are subject to a name check review process. Name checks are intended to reveal if any key individuals associated with the applicant have been convicted of or are presently facing criminal charges such as fraud, theft,

perjury, or other matters which significantly reflect on the applicant's management honesty or financial integrity.

(G) False Statements - A false statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(H) Intergovernmental Review - Applications for support from the National Sea Grant College Program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs".

(I) Purchase of American-Made Equipment and Products - Applicants are hereby notified that they will be encouraged, to the greatest extent practicable, to purchase American-made equipment and products with funding provided under this program.

(J) Pursuant to Executive Orders 12876, 12900, and 13021, the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to broadening the participation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) in its educational and research programs. The DOC/NOAA vision, mission, and goals are to achieve full participation by Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) in order to advance the development of human potential, to strengthen the nation's capacity to provide high-quality education, and to increase opportunities for MSIs to participate in and benefit from Federal Financial Assistance programs. DOC/NOAA encourages all applicants to include meaningful participation of MSIs. Institutions eligible to be considered HBCU/MSIs are listed at the following Internet website: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/99minin.html>.

(K) For awards receiving funding for the collection or production of geospatial data (e.g., GIS data layers), the recipient will comply to the maximum extent practicable with E.O. 12906 "Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access" The National Spatial Data Infrastructure", 59 Fed. Reg. 17671 (April 11, 1994). The award recipient shall document all new geospatial data collected or produced using the standard developed by the Federal Geographic Data Center, and make that standardized documentation electronically accessible. The standard can be found at the following Internet website: <http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/standards/html>).

Classification

Prior notice and an opportunity for public comments are not required by the Administrative Procedure Act or any other law for this notice concerning grants, benefits, and contracts. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

This notice contains collection of information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Sea Grant Budget Form (90-4), Sea Grant Project Summary Form (90-2), and Standard Forms 424 and 424B have been approved under control numbers 0648-0362, 0648-0362, 0348-0043, and 0348-0040, respectively, with average responses estimated to take 15, 20, 45, and 15 minutes, respectively. These estimates include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on these estimates or any other aspect of these collections to National Sea Grant College Program, R/SG, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (Attention: Francis S. Schuler) and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 (Attention: NOAA Desk Officer). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.